

Board Talking Points

September 2026

I hope you had a great start to the 2026-2027 school year! It's so enjoyable to witness the excitement of the kids returning to their schools.

Dr. Mark Mulvihill's Retirement For 56 years, I lived the rhythm of the school calendar. However, this will end in June 2027. After 39 years, I will be retiring at the conclusion of this school year. It's been an amazing run; I still think of myself as that beginning teacher and coach in 1987. Serving you as the IMESD superintendent for the past 18 years has been such a privilege and the most rewarding experience of my career.

On August 18, the IMESD board accepted my retirement letter and announced the superintendent vacancy. They will conduct listening sessions with regional and agency stakeholders in the month of September to begin the replacement process.

State Update Over the summer, the education lobby has been working hard to develop a K-12 legislative platform for the coming 2027 session. We are facing multiple headwinds due to the perception of Oregon's school performance. Although there are certainly student achievement metrics that need improvement, a great deal of misinformation exists due to political posturing. It will be important for COSA, OSBA, and OAESD to push back on this narrative and concisely message our successes, while transparently sharing the financial and mandate challenges we face.

On a positive note, the preliminary State School Fund allocation of \$12.6 billion is a 10.5% increase to the 25-27 biennium. This is a great starting point. Have a great beginning to your year!

MISSION

To provide outstanding customer service to our school districts in four areas: special education, technology, school improvement, and administrative services. IMESD strives to ensure the success of every child by providing equitable services to close the opportunity gap.